

FIRE GROUND

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE



Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2012

1st Annual Trampus S Haskvitz Golf Tournament

In honor of WFS Wildland Firefighter Trampus Haskvitz a Golf Tournament will be held at the Southern Hills Golf Club on June 2 in Hot Springs. All funds raised will go to the Wildland Firefighters Foundation.

Registration is \$100.00 per person with four people per team.

For more information contact Jim Strain 605-393-8011.



Division Birthdays

- Cheryl Greenfield - 8th
- Brandy Petersen - 8th
- Cindy Hansen - 18th
- Sean Marsich - 23rd
- Brian Luikar - 29th

Years of Service

- Zachariah Richards - 4 yrs
- Monty Bollock - 14 yrs

1st Annual WFS Summer Family Potluck

Food, Games, Auction and Fun!!

Come join us at Canyon Lake Park Shelter #3 on Sunday June 3 for the 1st Annual WFS Summer Family Potluck. Bring your family, some food to share, lawn chairs and your favorite outdoor games and fishing pole.

We will start at 1630 - Eat at 1700 - Auction starts at 1800

We will be doing an auction to help raise funds for the Employee Association.

Don't miss out on the fun!!!!



Employee Spotlight - Zachariah Richards

Zach is a Squad Boss with the Bear Mountain Hand Crew. He has been with the State since 2007 and started with the Black Hats. In 2009 he accepted the position as Squad Boss for the Bear Mountain Crew. Zach and his fiancé have two children, McKenzie who is 9 and Junior who is 3. Zach is kept busy spending time with his family. He enjoys watching sports on TV especially basketball, baseball (Yankees) and football (49er's). His favorite assignment was the Crystal fire. He enjoyed the interagency cooperation and the cohesiveness of the crew. He also enjoyed starting, maintaining and finishing control line in the same division. He was also excited for the opportunity to be the lead sawyer throughout the incident.

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Leaders Intent — Be a Mentor - Jay Esperance

This is the first in an eight part series on Leadership.



It's the leader's job to develop the talents and strengths of the people who they are supervising or guiding. This is true in the short term, as personnel deal with their assignment at hand. But it's also true long-term: the leaders must take a sincere responsibility for the lives and careers of the individuals they are supervising.

"How would you like to improve?" "Where do you want your career to go from here?" "What kinds of new responsibilities would you like to be taking on?" It's your job as a leader to ask all those questions and to use whatever knowledge and experience you possess to help individuals who you are supervising achieve those goals.

Reinforce the confidence you have in their abilities. Give them leader's intent that can be lived up to. Issue sincere compliments in public, send private notes. And remember, if they succeed, you succeed.

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

Welcome Back Cody!

Cody Griffie the new Lead District Fire Management Officer has recently returned from being deployed to Afghanistan. Cody joined the SD National Guard over a year ago and was deployed shortly after. He will be starting as the Lead FMO on June 25th. His new contact info will be office - 605-584-2300 and cell - 605-641-7035.

Thanks to Cody for serving out country!



Employee Spotlight - Bear Mtn / Black Hats

Bear Mountain Crew Member - James Giago

James has been a Professional Seasonal Firefighter with the State for 4 1/2 years. He started with the Black Hats and moved over to Bear Mtn. in 2008. His brother-in-law Vince Campbell helped him get his start. James has a new addition to his family; baby boy Jameson Kabrien was born on May 19. James has 2 brothers; the younger one Eugene previously worked on the handcrew and 2 older sisters. James' favorite sports are basketball and football. Favorite teams are the Duke Blue Devils and the Minnesota Viking. If he could play for any team it would be as shooting guard for the Blue Devils. He currently doesn't have any pets but hopes to own a dog name Butch sometime soon. His favorite fire assignment was the flood relief at Dakota Dunes.

Black Hats Crew Member - George Gazzola

George has been a Seasonal Firefighter with the Black Hat Hand Crew for two seasons. George got his start with fire as a member of the DOC Fire Crew. George and his fiancé Ruth Anne have one daughter Isabella. He loves to spend time with his family. George also like to the watch baseball especially the New York Yankees. The neatest place he has been on assignment with the crew has been to Colorado.



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Congratulations To Graduates



WFS is proud to announce the Graduations of:

- Steve Esser's son from Custer High School
- Jim Strains daughter from Stevens High School
- Cassie Christy a seasonal dispatcher graduated from the Fire Science program at Western Dakota Tech
- If you graduated and we missed you - Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our graduates!!!!

Mind the Meteorologist - Darren Clabo

Just the thought of it being May brings pleasant thoughts to mind: green grass, blossoming flowers, spectacular fishing, and the occasional severe thunderstorm. But this May came with baggage. Devastating flash floods in eastern SD, continued drought for western SD, record ERCs, and more wildfires. Many of these fires were caused by dry lightning—a phenomena that typically doesn't rear its ugly head until late in the summer. Dry lightning is generally produced by storms that have very high cloud bases, typically over ten thousand feet above ground and so high that most or all of the precipitation evaporates before it reaches the ground. Evaporation of rain causes another problem for firefighters: strong winds in the form of downdrafts.

So will the dry lightning continue? In short, yes. As summer progresses, we enter into a time period that is climatologically favored for more dry lightning. This will mean more fires and more work for WFS and our cooperating partners. I'll do my best on keeping you folks aware of any hazardous weather situations and please stay safe out there!



May Fire Stats

Fire Cause	Grasslands	Black Hills
Human Caused	26 fires / 388.579 acres	2 fires / 0.6 acres
Lightning Caused	1 fire / 5 acres	4 fires / 11.96 acres

First Use of Helicopters for Fire Fighting—June 26th 1946

The helicopter has proven to be a valuable tool in wildland fire operations and support for many years, transporting firefighters, moving cargo and equipment, dropping water and retardant, flying reconnaissance and observation missions, aerial ignition work, long lining, and simply providing eyes-in-the-sky fire information to the incident commander or burn boss. There are few fires where this aviation resource is not utilized in some capacity. You would think that the value of the helicopter would have been recognized from the outset but on the contrary. Helicopters were considered "far from perfect" and at the time (WWII) almost impossible to obtain. Nearing the end of WWII Sikorsky was delivering many models of helicopter to several branches of the military and receiving orders for more; all other orders were low priority. Forest managers continued to watch the development of helicopters and contemplated how they might be used post-war.

Trivia

- ◇ What was the name of the female bear that was Smokey's companion at the zoo?
- ◇ What is Smokey's zip code?

May Trivia Answers

- ◆ Bambi
- ◆ North American Black Bear
- ◆ 1950

Our mission is to protect South Dakota from the ravages of wildfire.



SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION

With questions or to have something added to the newsletter contact Megan Jaros

Phone: 605-399-3160

E-mail:

majaros@fs.fed.us

Up Coming Events

June 2 - 1st Annual Trampus S Haskvitz Golf Tournament

June 3 - WFS Employee Potluck

June 7 - Summer Nights - Downtown Rapid City

June 26-29 - Guns 'n Hoses Blood Drive - Rushmore Mall near Sears

Custer State Park RAWS - Jay Wickham

In April of 2012, the Division purchased a new RAWS station to replace the current RAWS station at Custer State Park. The new station is being built by Forest Technology Systems and should be completed sometime in June.

The current RAWS station at CSP is a portable RAWS that was purchased off of federal surplus approximately 10 years ago. The RAWS Depot, which provides us with technical support and parts, will be unable to support the current equipment due to its age.

The new RAWS station will be a permanent station and will meet all NFDRS standards set forth by the NWCG. One of the features of the new RAWS station includes is an audio voice transmitter (AVT) which will allow us to call up an observation from the station by keying our Bendix-King radio on South Zone Cicero and typing in the DTMF tones that will be provided to us from FTS. Another feature included with the AVT will be alerts transmitted over the radio when the station reaches preset readings for wind, temperature, or relative humidity. These features will be the same as what you hear now from the Forest Service RAWS stations. Our new station is the same as the weather stations currently used by the Black Hills National Forest.

By having a permanent station and recording weather data over a long period of time we can analyze our weather data to track trends, compare the current year to years past and determine if there are certain thresholds that lead to large fire growth. The data from our weather station can be imported into a program called Fire Family Plus. We can use this software to determine if there are certain thresholds such as wind speed, relative humidity, temperature or any of the outputs from the NFDRS processor (such as ERC or BI) that indicate higher probability of large fire growth. Once we collect five years of data, we will also be able to use the Fire Family Plus software to develop a pocket card once we collect five years of data.

The ability for us to use the weather data to develop response levels for our run cards might be the biggest advantage we gain from purchasing this station. By having the RAWS station in the foothills, we can gather weather data that is applicable to our response area. After several years of collecting data, we can analyze the weather data and our fire occurrence data together to fine tune our ERC values for use on our run cards.



Don't forget to check out the Employee Association Group on Facebook